OK TO ENTER: /C.P./ (06/22/2008)

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (previously presented) A joint assembly for joining a filiform element to a connection element, the assembly comprising

a tube fitted on an end section of said filiform element and formed with an eye for said connection element, the filiform element consisting of a single composite and solid round strand; and

means for bonding together the tube and the connection along continuous side contacting surfaces thereof.

2. (previously presented) The joint assembly according to claim 1 wherein said tube and said eye are made in a single piece.

3. (previously presented) The joint assembly according to claim 2 wherein said tube and said eye are separate pieces.

4. (previously presented) The joint assembly according to claim 3 wherein said tube has a curved section defining said eye, and at least a first substantially straight section distal from an outer end of said end section of said filiform element.

5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented) The joint assembly according to claim 1 wherein said means for bonding said tube to said filiform element comprises an adhesive or a chemical bond between said tube and said filiform element.

7. (previously presented) The joint assembly according to claim 4 wherein said first straight section of said tube has a predetermined length such that the tensile stress force is at least partially transferred from said filiform element to said tube along said first straight section of said tube.

8. (previously presented) The joint assembly according to claim 4 wherein said tube has a second substantially straight section proximal to the outer end of said end section of said filiform element.

9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) The joint assembly according to claim 1 wherein a matrix of said filiform element of composite material is thermoplastic.

11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) The joint assembly according to claim 1 wherein said tube is steel.

13 - 14. (canceled)

15. (previously presented) The joint assembly according to claim 1 wherein said filiform element has a protective coating against ultraviolet rays, against attacks of chemical nature, or against damage of mechanical origin.

16. (previously presented) The joint assembly according to claim 1 wherein said filiform element or said protective coating has a predetermined coloration for identifying the diameter of said filiform element or for visually indicating said filiform element.

17. (previously presented) The joint assembly according to claim 1 wherein said filiform element or said protective coating has length markers for facilitating measurement of said filiform element during manufacture of the joint assembly.

18. (previously presented) The joint assembly according to claim 1, further comprising

means for locking the eye closed.

19. (previously presented) The joint assembly according to claim 18 wherein said locking means are formed by a ring applied around the neck of said eye.

20. (previously presented) The joint assembly according to claim 1 wherein said tube has flared end edges.

21. (previously presented) The joint assembly according to claim 1, further comprising

removable connection means between said tube and said eye.

22. (previously presented) The joint assembly according to claim 21 wherein said connection means comprise a threaded stem that extends from said eye and screws into a first end of said tube.

23. (previously presented) The joint assembly according to claim 21, further comprising

a retaining element adapted to prevent the filiform element from pulling out of a second end of said tube.

24. (previously presented) The joint assembly according to claim 23 wherein the retaining element consists of a pin inserted axially the outer end of said filiform element positioned

in said tube, and having a maximum cross section greater than an internal clearance of said tube.

25. (previously presented) The joint assembly according to claim 23 wherein said pin is conical or frustoconical.

26. (previously presented) The joint assembly according to claim 23 wherein said filiform element is of composite thermoplastic material heatable to a softening temperature adapted to permit the penetration of the retaining element.

27. (previously presented) The joint assembly according to claim 1, further comprising

means for screw connection between the outer side surface of said end section of said filiform element and the inner side surface of said tube.

28 - 29. (canceled)

30. (previously presented) A procedure for joining a filiform element to a connection element comprising the steps of

fitting a tube on an end section of said filiform element,

shaping said tube such that it defines an eye adapted to be hooked by said connection element, the filiform element being a composite and solid round strand,

simultaneously heating the strand with the tube to a predetermined temperature at which both become malleable in order to be shaped to define the eye.

31. (canceled)

32. (previously presented) The procedure for achieving a system of junction of a filiform element to a connection element according to claim 30, further comprising the step of

joining said filiform element to said tube in order to transfer the tensile stress load from one to the other.

33. (previously presented) A kit for achieving a system of junction of a filiform element to a connection element, the kit comprising

a filiform element, resistant to tensile stress, of thermoplastic composite and solid material,

a tube fittable on an end section of said filiform element, and

a device for bending the tube including means for heating adapted to simultaneously heat said filiform element and said tube to a predetermined temperature in which said filiform element and

said tube become malleable, in order to be shaped such to substantially define a hooking eye to said connection element.

34 - 40. (canceled)